

### REMARKS

Applicants have carefully studied the outstanding Official Action. The present amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection. It conforms with 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b)(1) and places the application in condition for allowance. Entry of the Amendment, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are hereby respectfully requested.

The Examiner's indication that claims 1, 4, 5, 8 - 18, and 21 - 23 are allowed is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 20, 24, and 27 stand rejected. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the basis of the rejection, claims 20, 24, and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice, in order to move the application closer to allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 20, 24, and 27 in a continuing application.

Claims 25 and 26 stand objected to, as they depend from a rejected claim, claim 20, which has been cancelled as indicated above. Claims 25 and 26 have been rewritten in independent form, as the Examiner indicated that were claims 25 and 26 rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims, claims 25 and 26 would be allowable.

Claims 25 and 26 as amended are therefore deemed allowable.

Applicants have carefully studied the other prior art of record including US Patent 6,212,563 to Beser. Beser describes a system and method for allocating IP addresses for network devices using the dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) wherein a DHCP server returns a requested IP address every time an IP address is requested. A client identifier is generated for each network device as a function of the IP address. The client identifier is used in the DHCP options field of the DHCP parameter list in a DHCPDISCOVERY message.

Applicants find that the present invention as claimed is neither described nor suggested in the prior art of record, taken either individually or in combination.

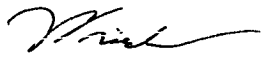
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Entry of the

Amendment, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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